

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER <b>GOTTE=1</b>
<b>TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371</b>		U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known, see 37 CFR 1.5) <b>10/019556</b>
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. <b>PCT/EP00/06095</b>	INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE <b>30 June 2000</b>	PRIORITY CLAIMED <b>30 June 1999</b>
TITLE OF INVENTION <b>EXTRUDER FOR THERMOPLASTIC MEDIA</b>		
APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US <b>Johannes GOTTE</b>		
<p>Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is a <b>FIRST</b> submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> This is a <b>SECOND</b> or <b>SUBSEQUENT</b> submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is an express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39(1).</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The US has been elected in a Demand by the expiration of 19 months from the priority date (PCT Article 31).</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> is attached hereto (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> has been communicated by the International Bureau.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).</li> </ol> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3))             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> have been communicated by the International Bureau.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> have not been made and will not be made.</li> </ol> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)).</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).</li> </ol> <p><b>Items 11. to 16. below concern document(s) or information included:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> An Assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A <b>FIRST</b> preliminary amendment.             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> A <b>SECOND</b> or <b>SUBSEQUENT</b> preliminary amendment.</li> </ol> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> A substitute specification.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other items or information:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Courtesy copy of the International Application as filed (In German).</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Courtesy copy of the first page of the International Publication (WO 01/02156).</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Formal drawings, 2 sheets, Figures 1-3.</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Courtesy Copy of the International Search Report.</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Application Data Sheet</li> </ul> </li> </ol> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The application is (or will be) assigned to: G&amp;G NATURPACK GMBH, whose address is Im Tirol 6, D-34434 Borgentreich, Germany.</p>		

U.S. APPLICATION NO (if known, see 37 CFR 1.5) <b>107019555</b>	International Application No <b>PCT/EP00/06095</b>	Attorney's Docket No <b>GOTTE=1</b>
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<p>17. [xx] The following fees are submitted:</p> <p><b>BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492 (a)(1)-(5):</b> Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO.....<b>\$1040.00</b></p> <p>International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO.....<b>\$890.00</b></p> <p>International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO.....<b>\$740.00</b></p> <p>International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4).....<b>\$710.00</b></p> <p>International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4).....<b>\$100.00</b></p> <p style="text-align:center"><b>ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =</b></p> <p>Surcharge of <b>\$130.00</b> for furnishing the oath or declaration later than [ ] 20 [X] 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)).</p> <table border="1" style="width:100%"><tr><td>Claims as Originally Presented</td><td>Number Filed</td><td>Number Extra</td><td>Rate</td></tr><tr><td>Total Claims</td><td>- 20</td><td></td><td>X \$18.00</td></tr><tr><td>Independent Claims</td><td>- 3</td><td></td><td>X \$84.00</td></tr><tr><td>Multiple Dependent Claims (if applicable)</td><td></td><td></td><td>+ \$280.00</td></tr></table> <p style="text-align:center"><b>TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =</b></p> <table border="1" style="width:100%"><tr><td>Claims After Post Filing Prel. Amend</td><td>Number Filed</td><td>Number Extra</td><td>Rate</td></tr><tr><td>Total Claims</td><td>- 20</td><td></td><td>X \$18.00</td></tr><tr><td>Independent Claims</td><td>- 3</td><td></td><td>X \$84.00</td></tr></table> <p style="text-align:center"><b>TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =</b></p> <p>Reduction of 1/2 for filing by small entity, if applicable Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.</p> <p style="text-align:center"><b>SUBTOTAL =</b></p> <p>Processing fee of <b>\$130.00</b> for furnishing the English translation later than [ ] 20 [X] 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)).</p> <p style="text-align:center"><b>TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =</b></p> <p>Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). <b>\$40.00</b> per property +</p> <p style="text-align:center"><b>TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =</b></p> <table border="1" style="width:100%"><tr><td style="width:60%"><b>Amount to be:</b></td><td style="width:40%">\$</td></tr><tr><td><b>refunded</b></td><td></td></tr><tr><td><b>charged</b></td><td>\$</td></tr></table>	Claims as Originally Presented	Number Filed	Number Extra	Rate	Total Claims	- 20		X \$18.00	Independent Claims	- 3		X \$84.00	Multiple Dependent Claims (if applicable)			+ \$280.00	Claims After Post Filing Prel. Amend	Number Filed	Number Extra	Rate	Total Claims	- 20		X \$18.00	Independent Claims	- 3		X \$84.00	<b>Amount to be:</b>	\$	<b>refunded</b>		<b>charged</b>	\$	<p style="text-align:center"><b>CALCULATIONS</b> PTO USE ONLY</p>
Claims as Originally Presented	Number Filed	Number Extra	Rate																																
Total Claims	- 20		X \$18.00																																
Independent Claims	- 3		X \$84.00																																
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<b>charged</b>	\$																																		

a. [ ] A check in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to cover the above fees is enclosed.

b. [X] Credit Card Payment Form (PTO-2038), authorizing payment in the amount of \$ 640.00, is attached.

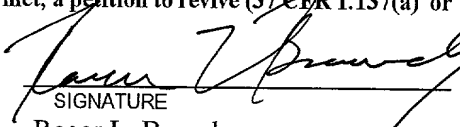
c. [ ] Please charge my Deposit Account No. **02-4035** in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to cover the above fees.  
A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

d. [XX] The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment  
to Deposit Account No. **02-4035** A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

**NOTE:** Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or  
(b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.

SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

**BROWDY AND NEIMARK, P.L.L.C.**  
**624 NINTH STREET, N.W., SUITE 300**  
**WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001**  
**TEL: (202) 628-5197**  
**FAX: (202) 737-3528**  
Date of this submission: **December 31, 2001**

  
SIGNATURE  
**Roger L. Browdy**  
NAME  
**25.618**  
REGISTRATION NUMBER

INVENTOR INFORMATION

10/019556

Inventor One Given Name:: Johannes  
Family Name:: GOTTE  
Postal Address Line One:: Im Tirol 6  
City:: Borgentreich  
Country:: Germany  
Postal or Zip Code:: D-34434  
Citizenship Country:: Germany

531 Rec'd PCT

31 DEC 2001

CORRESPONDENCE INFORMATION

Correspondence Customer Number:: 001444  
Fax One:: 202-737-3528  
Electronic Mail One:: Mail@BrowdyNeimark.com

APPLICATION INFORMATION

Title Line One:: EXTRUDER FOR THERMOPLASTIC MEDIA  
Total Drawing Sheets:: 2  
Formal Drawings?:: Yes  
Docket Number:: GOTTE=1  
Secrecy Order in Parent Appl.?:: No

REPRESENTATIVE INFORMATION

Representative Customer Number:: 1444

CONTINUITY INFORMATION

This application is a:: 371 OF  
> Application One:: PCT/EP00/06095  
Filing Date:: 06-30-2000

PRIOR FOREIGN APPLICATIONS

Foreign Application One:: 199 29 824.6  
Filing Date:: 06-30-1999  
Country:: Germany  
Priority Claimed:: Yes

Source:: PrintEFS Version 1.0.1

10019556 061400

10/019556

531 Rec'd PU

31 DEC 2001

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: ) Art Unit:  
Johannes GÖTTE )  
)  
IA No.: PCT/EP00/06095 )  
) Washington, D.C.  
IA Filed: June 30, 2000 )  
)  
U.S. App. No.: )  
(Not Yet Assigned) )  
) December 31, 2001  
National Filing Date: )  
(Not Yet Received) )  
)  
For: EXTRUDER FOR... ) Docket No.: GOTTE=1

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Honorable Commissioner for Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Contemporaneous with the filing of this case and  
prior to calculation of the filing fee, kindly amend as  
follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

After the title please insert the following  
paragraph:

--REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

The present application is the national stage under  
35 U.S.C. 371 of international application PCT/EP00/06095,  
filed June 30, 2000 which designated the United States, and  
which international application was not published under PCT  
Article 21(2) in the English language.--

200150 99560001

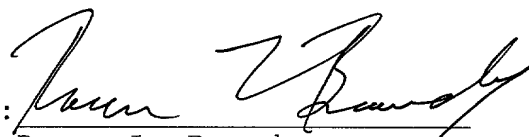
In re of: Johannes GÖTTE (GOTTE=1)

REMARKS

The above amendment to the specification is being made to insert reference to the PCT application of which the present case is a U.S. national stage.

Favorable consideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,  
BROWDY AND NEIMARK, P.L.L.C.  
Attorneys for Applicant

By:   
Roger L. Browdy  
Registration No. 25,618

RLB:wrd  
Telephone No.: (202) 628-5197  
Facsimile No.: (202) 737-3528  
F:\,H\HANE\Gotte1\PTO\Preliminary Amendment.doc

2025-05-13 09:56:00

April 05, 2001

My Docket: G 59/12

10/019556

Rec'd PCT/PTO 13 MAY 2002

Application No. PCT/EP00/06095

Applicant: G & G NATURPACK GmbH

In response to the Office Action of March 19, 2001

Extruder for Thermoplastic Media

The invention is concerned with an extruder for plasticizing thermoplastic media that is provided at its one end with a granule inlet in an inlet zone and at its opposite end with an outlet bore, also with a motor-driven threaded spindle that is disposed within a jacket with an opposite jacket thread, wherein the length-specific free total cross section of the spindle thread and the jacket thread is approximately constant along a plasticizing zone of the spindle length, and the free spindle thread cross section as well as the free jacket thread cross section change linearly in said zone in a complementary manner.

An extruder of this type is known from DE 44 00 330 A1. It is designed for plasticizing and foaming amylaceous bran or farine starting substances. The opposite threads in the jacket and in the spindle cause a pronounced shearing stress on the loaded granular substances, which are compacted under significant pressure of the spindle rotation and become very warm due to the stress.

The energy efficiency is nearly 90%. The spindle and the jacket widen towards the outlet and make increasingly more room available for the plastified and liquefied material to foam with the aid of the moisture contained in the material, which starts to evaporate.

Extruders of the type mentioned at the beginning are known from U.S. Application No. 3 164 375. They carry on both sides of the spindle and also the jacket trapezoidal threads or threads

AMENDED PAGE

with round recesses. While these trapezoidal threads provide a good support at the back of the recesses, they impede the desired forward flow of the medium at the front of the recesses.

The behavior is the opposite with the round threads, i.e., the advance is weak. Furthermore, the medium constantly flows back and forth between the passing threads, which is intended to provide for a thorough blending but is an obstacle to a systematic shearing stress on the entire mass that is being lead through.

Furthermore, the thread indentations on the spindle decrease in depth from the inlet toward the outlet, and in the jacket thread they increase accordingly. This results in an unfavorable pressure distribution in the axial direction.

An extruder is furthermore known from EP-A 0 574 172, which is provided with opposite trapezoidal threads that vary in their depth multiple times in the spindle and in the jacket in a complementary manner. At the inlet and outlet the thread of the spindle is fully developed and no thread exists within the jacket.

It is the object of the invention that the thread recess of at least one of the threads has a steep flank at its given inlet side and a flat flank at its given outlet side.

The solution is presented in the characteristic of the main claim.

Advantageous embodiments are presented in the subclaims.

The usability of the above described extruder that has so far been used for amylaceous products to plasticize thermoplastic plastics has been discovered by surprise.

The known extruder is significantly shorter than the customary single-shaft or two-shaft extruders that are used for plastics. Furthermore, its efficiency is significantly higher and, owing to the better blending during the conveyance against the opposite thread, no local overheating of the material occurs; the temperature increase above the plasticizing temperature is only approximately 10°C.

The opposite threads of the spindle and the jacket cause a material flow between them, from the decreasing towards the increasing cross section. The material flow is facilitated if the flank of the thread land is flattened on the outlet side to facilitate a forward movement of the mass and specifically enhance a wedge effect during the transition into the other thread.

Both threads are preferably designed with different numbers of starts, e.g., two to three or two to four.

In an advantageous embodiment, the free total thread cross section per spindle length section is constant, however, the distribution of the cross section portions between the opposite threads along the length of the spindle is different due to depth variations. It increases from 10% to 90% and decreases from 90% to 10% on the other side. In this manner a portion of the mass that is contained in the flattening thread turn, and that was just subjected to shear stress, is taken over bit by bit into the deepening thread.



Figs. 1 through 3 show sections of different embodiments of the thread pairs.

Fig. 1 shows an axial section through a first embodiment of an extruder;

Fig. 2 shows a section of a thread of a second type;

Fig. 3 shows a section of a thread of a third type.

Fig. 1 shows an extruder with a motor-driven spindle S that is held centered within a jacket M with a loose mounting.

On the inlet side, a material inlet E is built into the jacket M, and at the end an outlet bore A is provided inside a cover plate, to which an injection or molding system can be attached.

The spindle S and the jacket M are cylindrical in their thread roots and conical in their upper thread lands. As a result the free thread cross sections QS, QM of the spindle thread SG and the jacket thread SM are essentially constant along the length of the spindle S; however, the free cross section SQ of one thread SG steadily increases in the direction of conveyance F and the free thread cross section QM of the other thread MG steadily decreases.

In the example of Fig. 1, the two threads MG, SG are shown as trapezoidal threads. It has been shown, however, that it is advantageous to provide at least one of the threads with a flat flank FF.

One embodiment of this type is shown in Fig. 2, where the one thread GS is a trapezoidal thread and the other is a concave half round thread. This facilitates a circulation of the material while it is being advanced.

Fig. 3 shows a further variant of the threads SG, MG, wherein the given flanks FS of the thread starts that are located backwards from the direction of conveyance F, i.e., which serve for the advance or rearward support of the material, are kept relatively steep, and the front flanks FF of the starts are kept relatively flat to enhance the continued flow and effect a pronounced squeezing between the steep flank FS of the one thread and the flat flank FF of the given opposite thread during the continuous rotation of the spindle S.

The dimensions that have proven suitable are 80 mm (60 - 100 mm) spindle diameter D, 250 mm (150 - 320 mm) spindle length, and a free total cross section  $QS + QM$  of opposite thread turns of approximately  $100 \text{ mm}^2$  (50 -  $150 \text{ mm}^2$ ).

Especially polyethylene, which is sensitive to excessive temperatures, can be liquefied with a short extruder of this type. A jacket heater is not necessary. It has proven advantageous, however, to have the outlet face end thermostatically heated.

## Claims

1. An extruder for plasticizing thermoplastic media, provided at one end with a granule inlet (E) in an inlet zone and at its opposite end with an outlet bore (A), having a motor-driven threaded spindle (S) that is located within a jacket (M) with an opposite jacket thread (MG), wherein, across a plasticizing zone of the spindle length, the length-specific free total cross section ( $GS + QM$ ) of the spindle thread (SG) and of the jacket thread (MG) is approximately constant, and the free spindle thread cross section (QS), as well as the free jacket thread cross section (QM) change linearly in said zone in a complementary manner, characterized in that the thread recess of at least one of the threads (MG, SG) has a steep flank (SF) at its given inlet side and a flat flank (FF) at its outlet side.
2. An extruder according to claim 1, characterized in that one of the two threads (MG, SG) is a trapezoidal thread and the other thread has at its outlet side a flat shaped thread flank (FF) .
3. An extruder according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the free spindle cross section (QS) varies at its inlet side between 10% - 20% and at its outlet side between 80% - 90% of the free total cross section ( $QS + QM$ ).
4. An extruder according to any of the above claims, characterized in that both threads (MG, SG) are multi-start threads with a different number of starts.
5. An extruder according to claim 4, characterized in that one of the threads (SG) is a two-start thread and the other a three-start or four-start thread.

6. An extruder according to any of the above claims, characterized in that the diameter (D) to the length ratio of the threaded spindle (S) approximately 1 to 2 to 1 to (4).\*
- \* An extruder according to any of the above claims, characterized in that the spindle diameter (D) is approximately 80 mm.
7. An extruder according to any of the above claims, characterized in that the free total cross section ( $Q_S + Q_M$ ) of the threads (S, M) is 50 to 150 mm<sup>2</sup>.
8. An extruder according to any of the above claims, characterized in that it is connected at its outlet to a plastic injection or molding system.

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\* Translator's note: This translation is based on an incomplete sentence in the German-language document.

(12) NACH DEM VERTRAG ÜBER DIE INTERNATIONALE ZUSAMMENARBEIT AUF DEM GEBIET DES  
PATENTWESENS (PCT) VERÖFFENTLICHTE INTERNATIONALE ANMELDUNG

(19) Weltorganisation für geistiges Eigentum  
Internationales Büro



(43) Internationales Veröffentlichungsdatum  
11. Januar 2001 (11.01.2001)

PCT

(10) Internationale Veröffentlichungsnummer  
**WO 01/02156 A1**

(51) Internationale Patentklassifikation<sup>7</sup>: **B29C 47/38**  
// B29B 7/42

(72) Erfinder; und

(75) Erfinder/Anmelder (nur für US): **GÖTTE, Johannes**  
[DE/DE]; Im Tirol 6, D-34434 Borgentreich (DE).

(21) Internationales Aktenzeichen: **PCT/EP00/06095**

(74) Anwalt: **BOEHMERT & BOEHMERT;**  
**HANEWINKEL, Lorenz, Ferrarieweg 17 a, D-33102**  
**Paderborn (DE).**

(22) Internationales Anmeldedatum:  
30. Juni 2000 (30.06.2000)

(25) Einreichungssprache: **Deutsch**

(81) Bestimmungsstaaten (national): AE, AL, AM, AT, AU,  
AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE,  
DK, DM, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID,  
IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT,  
LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL,  
PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ,  
UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.

(26) Veröffentlichungssprache: **Deutsch**

(30) Angaben zur Priorität:  
199 29 824.6 30. Juni 1999 (30.06.1999) **DE**

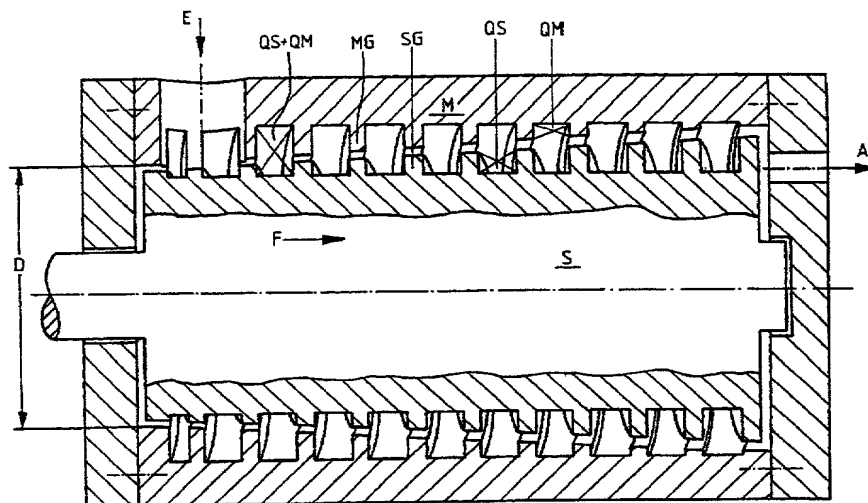
(71) Anmelder (für alle Bestimmungsstaaten mit Ausnahme von  
US): **G & G NATURPACK GMBH [DE/DE]; Im Tirol 6,**  
**D-34434 Borgentreich (DE).**

(84) Bestimmungsstaaten (regional): ARIPO-Patent (GH,  
GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), eura-  
sisches Patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),

[Fortsetzung auf der nächsten Seite]

(54) Title: **EXTRUDER FOR THERMOPLASTIC MEDIA**

(54) Bezeichnung: **EXTRUDER FÜR THERMOPLASTISCHE MEDIEN**



(57) Abstract: The invention relates to an extruder for plastifying thermoplastic media. Said extruder is provided at its one end with a granule inlet (E) in an inlet zone and at its opposite end with an outlet bore (A). The extruder further comprises a motor-driven threaded spindle (S) that is located within a jacket (M) with an opposite jacket thread (MG). Across a melting zone of the spindle length the length-specific free total cross-section (GS + QM) of the spindle thread (SG) and of the jacket thread (MG) is approximately constant and the free spindle thread cross-section (QS) and the free jacket thread cross-section (QM) change linearly in said zone in a complementary manner.

[Fortsetzung auf der nächsten Seite]

WO 01/02156 A1

Page 1 of 2 Pages [x] Original [ ] Substitute [ ] Supplemental

Any. Docket: GOTTEI

**Combined Declaration for Patent Application and Power of Attorney**

As a below-named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name; and that I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

**EXTRUDER FOR THERMOPLASTIC MEDIA**

the specification of which (check one)

- ☐ is attached hereto;  
☐ was filed in the United States under 35 U.S.C. §111 on \_\_\_\_\_, as U.S. Appl. No. \_\_\_\_\_; or  
☒ was/will be filed in the U.S. under 35 U.S.C. §371 by entry into the U.S. national stage of an international (PCT) application, PCT/ EP00/06095; filed 30 June 2000, entry requested on 31 December 2001; national stage application received U.S. Appl. No. \_\_\_\_\_; §371/§102(c) date \_\_\_\_\_ (\* if known)

and was amended on 31 December 2001 (if applicable).

(include dates of amendments under PCT Art. 19 and 34 if PCT)

I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above; and I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) all information known by me to be material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 (a)-(d) and 365 (b) of any prior foreign application(s) for patent, inventor's or plant breeder's rights certificate(s), or under §365(a) of any PCT application which designated at least one country other than the U.S., listed below:

Application No.	Country	Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)
199 29 824.6	Germany	06/30/1999

If I claimed foreign priority above, I hereby identify below any foreign application for patent (including an international (PCT) application designating a country other than the United States) or for an inventor's or plant breeder's certificate, having a filing date before that of the earliest application from which foreign priority is claimed (if left blank, then there are none):

Non-Priority Application No.	Country	Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) of any United States provisional applications listed below:

Application No.	Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. §120 of any prior U.S. non-provisional application(s) or under §365(c) of any prior PCT international application(s) designating the U.S., listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in such U.S. or PCT international application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the PTO all information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

Application No.	Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Status (patented, pending, abandoned)

As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following registered practitioners to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

All of the practitioners associated with Customer Number 001444

Direct all correspondence to the address associated with Customer Number 001444, which is presently:

**BROWDY AND NEIMARK, P.L.L.C.**  
 624 Ninth Street, N.W.  
 Washington, D.C. 20001-5303  
 (202) 628-5197

10019556-051302

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Atty. Docket: GOTTE=1

Title: **EXTRUDER FOR THERMOPLASTIC MEDIA**

U.S. Application filed \_\_\_\_\_ Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_

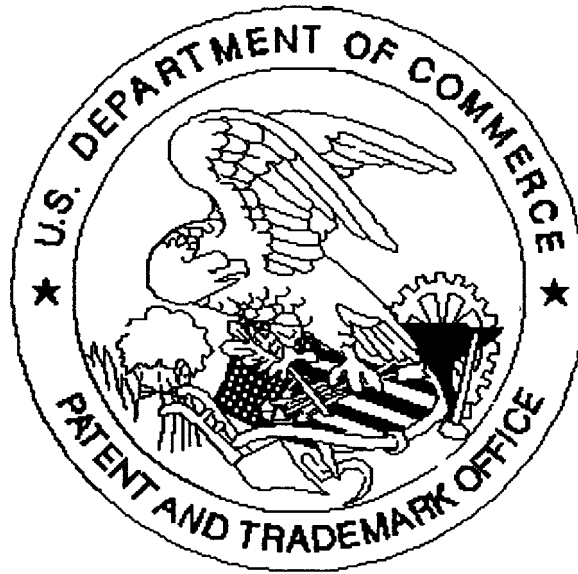
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I hereby further declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. §1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

FULL NAME OF FIRST INVENTOR <b>Johannes GOTTE</b>		INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE <i>Joh. Gotte</i>	DATE <b>03/05/2002</b>
RESIDENT <b>Borgentreich, Germany</b> <i>DEX</i>		CITIZENSHIP <b>Germany</b>	
POST OFFICE ADDRESS <b>Im Firdl 6, D-34434 Borgentreich, Germany</b>			
FULL NAME OF SECOND JOINT INVENTOR		INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE	DATE
RESIDENT		CITIZENSHIP	
POST OFFICE ADDRESS			
FULL NAME OF THIRD JOINT INVENTOR		INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE	DATE
RESIDENT		CITIZENSHIP	
POST OFFICE ADDRESS			
FULL NAME OF FOURTH JOINT INVENTOR		INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE	DATE
RESIDENT		CITIZENSHIP	
POST OFFICE ADDRESS			
FULL NAME OF FIFTH JOINT INVENTOR		INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE	DATE
RESIDENT		CITIZENSHIP	
POST OFFICE ADDRESS			
FULL NAME OF SIXTH JOINT INVENTOR		INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE	DATE
RESIDENT		CITIZENSHIP	
POST OFFICE ADDRESS			
FULL NAME OF SEVENTH JOINT INVENTOR		INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE	DATE
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